Response to National Cultural Policy

*74. SHRI RAM RATAN RAM :
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) what are the salient features of the 'National Cultural Policy' circulated by the Ministry; and

(b) What is the response received by Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH) : (a) The Government have circulated only an approach paper on the National Policy on Culture to elicit views of the Members of Parliament, artists, institutions, theatre personalities, archaeologists, anthropologists, educationists, Media, and other members of Public. A statement on the salient features on the approach paper on National Policy on Culture is laid on the Table of the House.

(b) Government have received very good response to this attempt at formulating a National Policy on Culture from various persons including Central Ministers, Members of Parliament, artists, Media, voluntary agencies and individuals.

Statement

1. That Culture is a crucial part of development deserving careful attention and substantial investment;

2. That the importance of culture has to be clearly and candidly defined, the area of public intervention in culture identified; the role of State in culture assessed and readjusted; importance of societal and voluntary efforts recognised and further encouraged.

3. The need to develop strategies to sensitise people particularly the young to creative expression and to enrich the quality of life.

4. To promote the development of various forms of creative expression; to preserve the manifestation of such expression through the centuries; to document forms of expression which may be changing or giving way to others and to recognise the diversities in these forms which taken together constitute what can be called the culture of India.

5. The paper proposes that as far as possible the State should play only a catalytic role on the development and progress of culture.

6. To bring about public support and effective coordination between the activities of various agencies in the States and the Centre and to recognise that decentralisation is a key factor in cultural promotion and that important role has to be played by the individuals and voluntary agencies.

7. To aim to see the consumerist tendencies are not allowed to create cultural distortions and tensions.

8. Respect and striving for creativity and excellence to be inculcated from early levels of education.

9. To ensure community participation at all levels including panchayats, local bodies etc.

10. To protect monuments worthy of protection through voluntary groups, panchayat system and by participation of local people.

11. To encourage corporate and voluntary sector to participate in the field of preservation and conservation.

12. To preserve and document the rich traditions of tribal and fold cultures.

13. To prepare an action plan to realise the various policy objectives including setting up of an independent Sanskriti parishad, etc.

Proposal to start Five Year Law Course

*75. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to start five year Law Course after 10+2 standard;

(b) whether Government have taken the view points of all concerned in this regard;

(c) if so, the details in this regard; and

(d) at what stage the matter is pending and whether any fresh demand has been received on this behalf ?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH) : (a) to (d) According to the information furnished by the University Grants Commission, courses in the Universities including law courses are prescribed by the Universities themselves and not by the Government. The scheme of five year Law Course after 10+2 standard is already being implemented in some Universities. The Bar Council of India in consultation with the Universities and State Bar Councils proposed the five year Law Course to the various Universities imparting legal education. No demand in this regard is pending with the Government.

[*76. *Transferred to 1st December,* 1992].

Suomoto Cognisance of Cases By National Commission for Women

*77. SHRI DEBABRATA BISWAS : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Commission for Women has since been constituted;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Commission may take 'suomoto' cognisance of cases;

(c) if so, how many suomoto cases have since been taken cognisance of by the Commission since its formation; and

(d) the details of each case and stages at which they rest now ?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) None.

(d) Does not arise.

Import of coking coal by SAIL

*78. SHRI MOHAMMED AMIN : SHRI SUKOMAL SEN :

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that SAIL spends millions of dollars on imported coking coal;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps are being taken by Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) and (b) Steel Plants of the Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) import some quantity of metallurgical coking coal to meet both quantitative and qualitative shortfalls in the indigenous availability.

(c) Ministry of Steel has advised SAIL to keep imports to the minimum level, and to resort to imports only to meet the qualitative and quantitative shortfalls in the availability of coking coal from indigenous sources. Ministry of Coal/Coal India Limited have indicated that they are making efforts to improve production of metallurgical grade coking coal for use in the steel plants.

Diversion of Achankovil and Pamba River Waters

*79. SHRI S.K.T. RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) what steps are being taken by Government to evolve a consensus between Kerala and Tamil Nadu regarding the diversion of Achankovil and Pamba rivers into the drought prone southern districts of Tamil Nadu; and

(b) whether Government propose to hold a summit meeting of the Chief Ministers of these States for the purpose ?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI V. C. SHUKLA) : (a) Chief Ministers/Irrigation Ministers are Members of National Water Development Agency. Also concerned State Government officials are represented on the Governing Body and Technical Advisory Committee of the Agency. These Bodies meet at regular intervals to sort out various issues concerning studies undertaken by the Agency for transferring water from water rich basins to water short basins.

(b) There is no such proposal under consideration.